

# 5

Science Standard  
5.3.c.



## Dictionary

California Education and the Environment Initiative



# Precipitation, People, and the Natural World



# Dictionary

# A

## acid

A chemical, like vinegar, that can corrode materials like chalk and limestone.



## acid precipitation

Precipitation, such as rain or fog, with higher-than-normal acidity, usually caused by air pollution.



## aerosol

A tiny particle of a liquid or solid that floats in the air.





## agriculture

The practice of growing crops and raising animals for food, fiber, or other use by humans.



## aqueduct

A structure used to move water from one place to another.



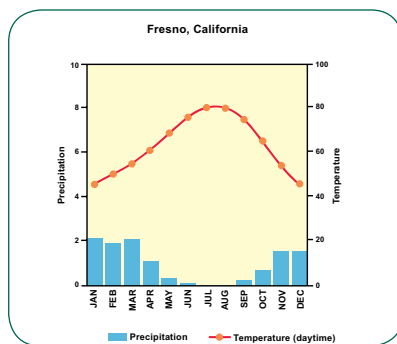
## climate change

A long-term significant change in the weather patterns of an area.

C

## climatogram

A graph that shows average monthly temperature and precipitation for a given area.



## condensation

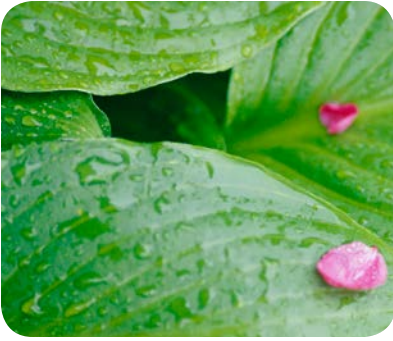
The process by which a gas changes to a liquid.



## dam

A structure that stops, slows, or changes the flow of water, so that it collects in a reservoir.





## dew point

The air temperature at which water vapor condenses.



## drought

A long period of time with little or no precipitation.



## evaporation

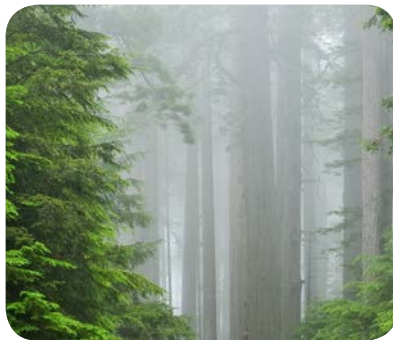
The process by which a liquid changes to a gas.

E

# F

## **fog**

A thick cloud of water droplets that collects close to the ground.



## **fossil fuel**

A source of energy, such as oil, natural gas, or coal, that formed from living organisms that died millions of years ago.

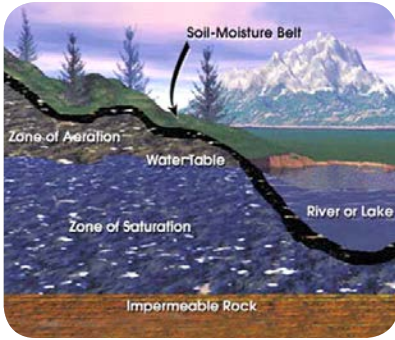


## **freezing rain**

Rain that freezes and forms ice when it hits the ground.







## groundwater

Water in underground streams and aquifers (layers of rock and soil) beneath Earth's surface.

G



## hail

Precipitation in the form of solid ice, that ranges in size from a pea to a softball, that occurs during intense thunderstorms.

H



## industry

Businesses that manufacture or produce and sell certain types of goods and services.

I

## irrigation

A system that provides water to land through pipes, artificial channels, or other methods.



## N natural system

The parts, processes, and cycles in an environment, and the interactions among plants, animals, and other organisms with their environment.



## nitrogen oxide

One of the chemical mixtures of nitrogen and oxygen produced during burning.





## **pollutant**

A waste produced by human activity that contaminates the environment.



## **precipitation**

Water that falls from clouds to Earth as rain, mist, hail, sleet, ice, or snow.

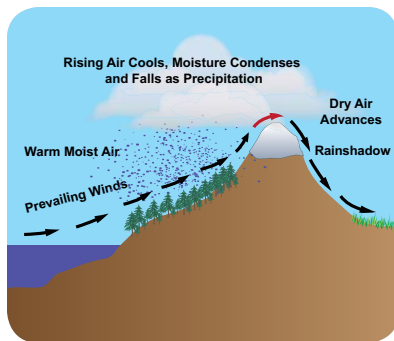


## **rain**

Precipitation in the form of drops of water.

## rainshadow effect

The result of most of the moisture being lost by clouds as they cool by moving up and over a mountain range.



## reservoir

A lake or other storage area where water is collected and kept for future use.



## runoff

Water that flows over the ground and into streams and rivers.





### sleet

Precipitation in the form of frozen raindrops.



### snow

Precipitation in the form of flakes of ice crystals.



### snowpack

The total amount of snow or ice on the ground.

## **sulfur dioxide**

The chemical compound of sulfur and oxygen that is produced during volcanic activity and industrial processes.



## **urban heat island**

An urban area that is hotter than the surrounding area due to the presence of buildings and heat-absorbing and heat-reflecting surface materials.



U



Unit Title: **Precipitation, People, and the Natural World**

Grade: **5**

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